

"Shell rather tumid, ovate, elliptic, very inequilateral, with the beaks nearly terminal at the truncated anteal extremity. The posteaal extremity rounded. An arched furrow runs from the beak to the margin at the anteal extremity. This furrow is smooth; the space in front of it is terminated by about a dozen nearly perpendicular curved grooves, bounding a somewhat impressed, nearly smooth indistinct area. Between the arched groove and in front of the border of the lunule, all over the shell are fine curving divaricating furrows, forming a series of elegant angular markings. Towards the cardinal margin these furrows curve inwards, widen, and have thicker interspaces, so as to denticulate the borders of the lanceolate and nearly smooth lunule. The ventral margin appears to have had smooth lips. The cast is smooth. Dimensions of the most perfect specimen, from beak to posterior angle, $\frac{5}{10}$: central breadth $\frac{4}{10}$: thickness $\frac{3}{10}$.

"This remarkable shell belongs to a group of *Nucula*, of which there are few known species, either living or fossil. The oldest known members of the section occur in cretaceous strata: *Nucula bivirgata*, Sowerby, and *Nucula ornatissima*, D'Orbigny, both gault species, are examples. Still nearer the West Indian species is the *Nucula Cobboldiæ* of the crag, a species which lived on in the Celtic region of Europe till the elevation of the sea-bed of the glacial epoch caused its extinction. Two living *Nucula* represent this group, viz. *Nucula divaricata* and *Nucula castrensis*, both described by Mr. Hinds in the 'Zoology of the Voyage of the Sulphur'; the former was taken in twenty-four fathoms in the Chinese seas, and the latter dredged in seven fathoms, sand, at Sitka in North-West America."

XXXIX.—On the Insects of Jamaica. By PHILIP HENRY GOSSE.

[Continued from p. 270.]

63. *Brentus* (sp.). Taken on Bluefields Mountain early in June.

64. *Brentus* (sp.). Small. Taken in the same locality a day or two after the former.

65. *Brentus* (sp.). Intermediate in size between the preceding two. Taken at the Hampstead Road near the end of June.

66. *Pachnæus* (sp. near *opalus*). Numerous on the Hampstead Road in June, on low shrubs and herbaceous plants.

67. *Diaprepes Spengleri*. I found this weevil in some abundance on the stunted prickly trees growing in the Pedro Plains, about the middle of June. I also found it plentiful in the island of St. Thomas, about a month later.

68. ———? *impressus* (*Curculio impressus*, Fabr.). At the back of Content Cottage grows, at the edge of the forest, a towering mahogany-tree: the specimens (some ten or twelve) of this very conspicuous insect which I obtained, were all with one or two exceptions found on this tree. They were usually resting on the leaves or twigs at a great elevation, and we found them only by a careful and patient searching with the eye among the lofty foliage. When we observed one, we procured it by thrusting up a bag-net at the end of a pole, into which on the slightest shock it would fall. One specimen flew in at the open window of the cottage after nightfall, attracted by the lights. They occurred from the latter part of May to the end of June.

69. *Prepodes vittatus*. The first specimen I saw was brought to me in April, found among the grass at Bluefields. Straggling individuals were picked up now and then until the end of May, when the species became very numerous on Bluefields Mountain, and still more abundant on the Hampstead Road; continuing plentiful throughout June. We found them for the most part in the early part of the day resting on the leaves and twigs of the young trees that border and overhang the roads. Specimens differ much in size, and still more in beauty; for while in some, the longitudinal bands of alternate crimson and green that run down the elytra are perfect and brilliant, in others they are nearly defaced by rubbing, and the colours are changed to a dull brown and a dingy yellow.

70. *Prepodes* (sp. nov.). This is smaller than the preceding, and distinguished by the longitudinal bands being white. It is rather uncommon. I took three specimens almost together, on low bushes (*Lantana*, if I rightly remember) beside the road leading from Bluefields to Savanna le mer, about the middle of July; and another at Auld Ayr, near Bluefields, about the middle of August.

71. *Celiodes*? (sp.). A few specimens were taken at Bognie, on Bluefields Mountain, about the beginning of June.

72. *Eurhinus* (sp. nov.). This is near *E. festivus*, but is still more lustrous than that lovely insect; the light reflected from its burnished surface is of an orange-red hue, and almost resembles that of a glowing coal. I obtained but three specimens; one of which was found on a bush at Belmont, early in June, and another on the Hampstead Road, at the same season in the following year.

73. *Macromerus* (sp. nov.?). Flew into the house at Content, during the evening, near the end of May.

74. *Lachnopus aurifer*. This beautiful insect occurred only in the neighbourhood of Kingston Harbour. At the end of June and beginning of July, my lad Sam found it in considerable num-

bers on the bushes and trees of Greenwich, the residence of J. Parry, Esq.

75. *Lachnopus* (sp. nov.). Taken near Content rather late in May.

76. *Loncophorus* (sp. nov.?). Taken on the Hampstead Road in June.

77. *Loncophorus* (sp. nov.?). Taken at the same place and season as the preceding.

78. *Heilipus* (sp. near *elegans*). Hampstead Road in June.

79. *Polydrusus* (sp. nov.). Very numerous on the Hampstead Road in May and June; chiefly on the leaves of a spinous-leaved *Solanum*.

80 to 83. *Cryptorhynchus*. Four species.

84. *Sphenophorus sericeus*.

85 to 87. *Sitophilus*. Three species.

88. *Calandra* (sp. near *abbreviata*).

89. *Bostrichus* (sp. near *typographicus*). The only occasion on which I met with this species was on the dissection of a *Chordeiles Virginianus* early in May. The stomach was distended with these little beetles, to the number of about two hundred, so that when turned out, one wondered how they could ever have been compressed into so small a cavity. Doubtless this bird had found a swarm of these beetles flying high in air, in the evening; for it was soon after sunset that it was shot.

90. *Stenodontes (damicornis?)*. Three or four specimens of this Longicorn, the female of which is the largest beetle I found in Jamaica, occurred in March, April and October. All were taken either within or about the house at Bluefields.

91. *Solenoptera fuliginosa* (Fabr.).

92. *Solenoptera lineata* (Linn.). I suspect that these two are but one species, of which the former, destitute of the white bands, is the male. Though I never found it myself, considerable numbers were given me at various times in May and June, all of which were taken at Shrewsbury, a little below Content. The sexes, if such they are, occurred in nearly equal numbers, and were almost invariably found together.

93. *Chlorida festiva*. Found within the house at Bluefields, after nightfall, about the middle of May.

94. *Eburia 4-maculata*.

95. *Eburia* (sp. near *4-maculata*).

96. *Eburia maculosa*.

97. *Eburia* (sp. nov.).

All these species occurred principally on the Hampstead Road in June, occasionally also at Sabito, and on Bluefields Mountain. I could not call either of them common, with the exception of *E. maculosa*, which, in the localities and at the season just named,

was by far the most abundant coleopterous insect I met with. It is not at all gregarious, but single individuals are seen resting on the leaves of trees that overhang the sides of the roads; scarcely a shrub being without several for miles together.

98. *Elaphidion spinicorne*. From the creaking sound made by this species in common with many others of the *Longicornes*, it is commonly known by the name of the Fiddler. It is one of those species whose activity is not confined to any particular season or locality, but is a common visitor at all times, flying in at open windows, and crawling around the candle-shades, or up the walls, in the evening. The spinous processes of the antennæ and of other parts are so long and sharp that they pierce the fingers when the insect is handled, though ever so tenderly.

99. *Elaphidion 6-fasciatum*. Very common on the leaves of low trees by the sides of the Hampstead Road throughout June.

100. *Elaphidion bidens*? Rare: a specimen taken at the Hampstead Road near the end of June.

101 to 104. *Elaphidion* (sp. near *insulare*). And three other species; occurring sparingly in June, on the Hampstead Road, and occasionally flying in at the open window at Content, in the evening.

105. *Callichroma virens*. Of this magnificent insect, which I have taken also in Alabama (U.S.), two specimens occurred in Jamaica, both of them much larger and finer than my American specimen. The first was taken resting on a projecting twig of a tree overhanging the Hampstead Road, June 24th, pretty high up. The other was brought me from the woods behind Blue-fields, on the 18th July. Both were strongly fragrant during life.

[To be continued.]

XL.—On the Ventriculidæ of the Chalk; their classification.

By J. TOULMIN SMITH, Esq.

[Concluded from p. 295.]

Genus BRACHIOLITES.

Character. Shape and size very various, but always much lobated or branched: internal cavities of lobes and branches always communicating: extremities closed or open: membrane forming the wall sometimes plain sometimes folded: margin of wall thinned or rounded off to an edge: membrane of wall poly-piferous on both external and internal surfaces.

Departing altogether from the forms hitherto examined, the present genus is characterized by its lobated or branched divi-